been found to be substandard and hence a ban has been imposed on their sale;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of fertilizer companies in the country having and not having a provision of labs for testing quality of their products alongwith the details thereof; and

(d) the action Government would take against the companies for not having any labs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No such information has come to the notice of the Government regarding ban on sale of fertilizecs by any manufacturing units under Fertilizer (Control) Order (FCO). However, on all India basis about 6% of the samples were found non standard during 2005-06.

(c) The FCO, 1985 has prescribed minimum requirement of specific laboratory facilities to be possessed by the certain categories of manufacturers namely Single Super Phosphate, fertilizer mixtures and micronutrient fertilizers. Most of the major fertilizer manufacturing units maintain such laboratory facilities to ensure the quality. No information is available about the companies having or not having the laboratory facilities in their production units.

(d) Non possession of laboratory facilities as prescribed by the Government under Clause 21 of FCO, 1985 by the specific group of manufacturing units is a violation of FCO provisions and the State Governments are empowered to take penal action against them under the provisions of FCO/ECA, 1955.

Dean Committee on Agricultural Education and Research

†1811.SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quality of agricultural education and research is declining continously in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that in view of this serious situation Indian Council for Agricultural Research had constituted a Dean Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. S.L. Mehta who has submitted his report; and

(c) if so, the complete details thereof and the effective action proposed to be taken by Government to bring qualitative change in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Deans Committee was appointed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to give recommendations for keeping pace with scientific and technological developments in agricultural education. This is a national level exercise usually undertaken periodically. Last such revision was undertaken in 1995. For this purpose, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.L. Mehta was constituted in 2005. The Committee submitted its report on September 22,2006. The major recommendations of the Committee for adoption by State Agricultural Universities/lCAR include statutory powers to ICAR for regulation of higher agricultural education; introduction of experiential learning and increased practical and practice contents in undergraduate programmes, need-assessed training of faculty members for their competence improvements, and norms, standards and academic regulations for uniformity across the agricultural universities.

Export share of agro products

†1812.SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the decline in the share of agriculture products in total export from the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the share of agriculture products in total export at present and the details during the last five years, year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to increase share of agriculture in export?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.